

## **REMARKS**

### **A. Introduction**

Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1,4, 9 and 12 were rejected.

Claims 2, 3, 5-8, 10, 11, 13-16 were objected to.

Claims 1, 4, 9, and 12 were cancelled.

Claims 2, 5, 10 and 13 were amended.

### **B. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 103.**

Examiner rejected Claims 1 & 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Broillet (U.S. Patent No. 5,863,004) and rejected Claims 4 and 12 under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Broillet. Applicants have cancelled Claims 1, 4, 9 and 12 and amended Claims 2, 5, 10, and 13.

## **CONCLUSION**

In view of the above, Applicants submit that Claims 2, 3, 5-8, 10, 11, 13-16 are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections. Allowance of Claims 2, 3, 5-8, 10, 11, 13-16 at an early date are solicited.

If the Examiner still finds impediments to allowance of Claims 2, 3, 5-8, 10, 11, 13-16 and in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference between the undersigned and the Examiner would help remove such impediments. The undersigned respectfully requests a telephone conference.

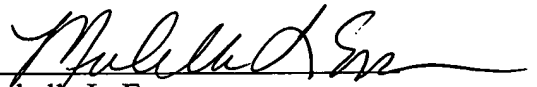
Respectfully submitted,

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